

Features



Right: Tech. Sgt. Andrew Teague, 20th Civil Engineer Squadron installation solid waste manager, teaches children at the Child Development Center about the value of recycling and other environmental issues Nov. 23. Bottom: April Burnette, 20th CES environmental management assistant, reads a story to a group of children during America Recycles Day.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Kevin Williams

Single parent; numerous duties

By Tarsha Storey
Correspondent

Work, potty-training and child care are just a few things parents have to deal with. Some parents do not have the help of a spouse to divide the responsibilities of raising a child. They are single parents.



Tech. Sgt. Valerie Brown, 20th Logistics Readiness Squadron, and her son, Necola, talk to friends before Monday's meeting.

As of September, there are 12.4-million single parents living in America, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Imagine the full schedule of a single parent plus the responsibilities of being a military member, such as deployments, temporary duty assignments, recalls, training and overall lifestyle. For many Air Force members, dealing with both being a military member and a single parent is part of their daily life.

One in every five (or 20 percent) Air Force families are separated, divorced or have children living in more than one place. At Shaw, more than 100 members are single parents, said Maj. Christopher Rogers, assigned to U.S. Central Command Air Forces and the leader of Shaw's Single Parents Support Group.

Each month, the group meets at the family support center to learn and talk about parenting issues and help each other. The group's motto is "helping ourselves by helping each other."

Even though they focus on being a single parent, the group is open to any Team Shaw member. Parents whose spouses are deployed or on a remote tour are also

duties



Photos by Tarsha Storey

Maj. Christopher Rogers, U.S. Central Command Air Forces, talks about parenting priorities during the group's meeting Monday.

invited to attend, said Maj. Rogers.

Many members of the group have different reasons for attending. First Lt. Tina Van Leer, 20th Medical Group officer in charge of patient administration, said her reason is peer support.

"Talking to others in a similar situation and realizing you're not the only one is important," said Lt. Van Leer.

At the meetings, they may discuss issues from potty-training issues to balancing the priorities of being a parent. The

meetings are usually held at alternating times, lunch and evening, depending on the needs of the group, said Maj. Rogers.

"I love this program! The unity is important. We come together as single parents and discuss any issues we have," said Tech. Sgt. Valerie Brown, 20th Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle operations training manager.

For more information or to join the Single Parents Support group, call Arlyne Rzepecki at **895-1252**.

October's high scores

Congratulations to the following Team Shaw members who received a score of 90 percent or above on their end of course tests:

99: Airman Ajay McLaughlin, 609th Air Intelligence Squadron

98: Airman 1st Class Michael Shaffer, 609th AIS

97: Airman 1st Class Travis Rogers, 609th AIS

96: Senior Airman Jamar Adams, 20th Civil Engineer Squadron; Airman 1st Class Brenda Boquiren, 609th AIS; Airman 1st Class Christopher York, 609th AIS; Airman Brian Boes, 20th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

94: Airman 1st Class Travis Vaughn 20th AMXS; Airman Brent Jones, 609th Air Communications Squadron

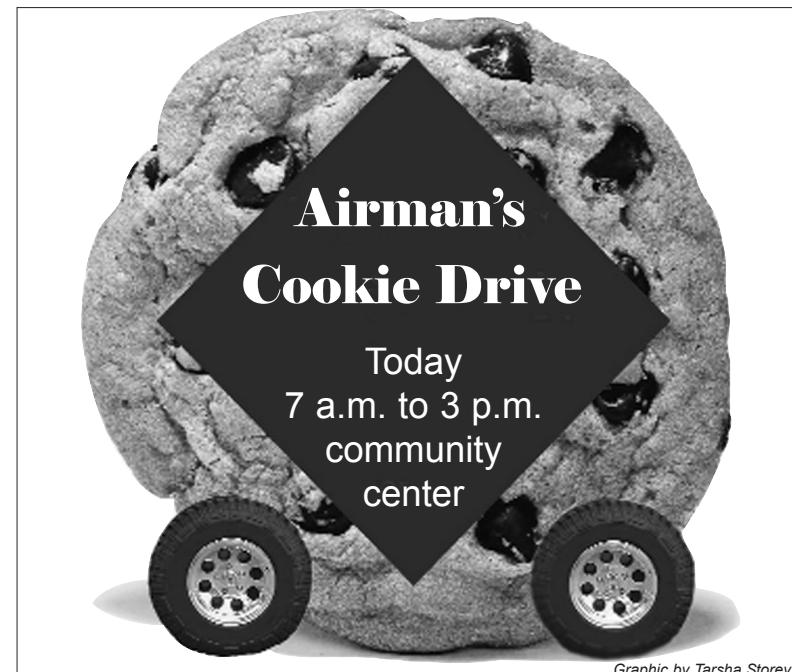
93: Airman 1st Class Robert Crenzi, 20th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Justin Dowdy, 20th AMXS; Airman Jessica Ramsay, 20th Communications Squadron

92: Airman 1st Class Michael Buell, 20th

AMXS; Airman 1st Class Dominique Cooper, 20th Component Maintenance Squadron; Airman Arlene Coleman, 20th AMXS

91: Master Sgt. Eric Smith, 28th Operational Weather Squadron; Staff Sgt. Travis Mills, 20th CES; Airman 1st Class Waymon Brown, 20th CES; Airman 1st Class John Jenkins, 28th OWS

90: Staff Sgt. Michael Gray, 20th Equipment Maintenance Squadron; Staff Sgt. Kevin Jones, 20th Security Forces Squadron; Airman 1st Class Conor Jensen, 28th OWS; Airman 1st Class Zachary Penry, 609th AIS; Airman 1st Class Matthew Stephens, 609th AIS; Airman Joshua Jones, 20th Services Squadron; Airman Kenny Scott, 20th AMXS



Shaw Stork Sorties

Nov. 3 -- Robin Andrew to Sara and Senior Airman Robin Brazelton, 20th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Nov. 5 -- Medina Isabelle to Mellisa and Airman Joe Craddock, 20th AMXS

Nov. 15 -- Marcus C. to Jessica and Senior Airman Marcus Barber, 20th AMXS

